AN

# ACCOUNT

Of a most Barbarous and Bloody

# Irish Murder,

*Committed upon the Body of* HENRY COOPER, *Esq; the* 19th *day of* November 1701. *in his own House in the County of* Clare, *in the Kingdom of* Ireland, *about ten of the Clock at Night, in the Presence of his Wife and Children, by one Major* William Smith, *and his Accomplices.*

Jan. 170½

AS Malice is the true Parent of all Murders, so hath she been the Cause of this; but this is join'd with a blacker train of Attendants than is commonly known in any Story of the same Nature.

Some former Injuries offer'd by Mr. *Smith* to Mr. *Cooper*, in point of Interest, justly provoked Mr. *Cooper* to demand that Satisfaction with the Sword, which Gentlemen, fond of their Reputation and Honour, usually expect, when the Reparation is out of the common course of the Law, which Mr. *Smith* denied; and being impatient under the Disgrace of such Refusal, to satisfy his inordinate Passion of Revenge, contriv'd and perpetrated the Murder of the said Mr. *Cooper* in manner following.

Mr. *Smith* was High-Sheriff of the County of *Clare*, and on the 19th day of *November* last, being at a Place called *Newmarked*, in the same County, had an Account that he should be superseded the next Day by Captain *Cole*, upon which about six of the Clock at Night he went home and changed his hunting Saddle, whereon he rid all the Day before, for a pad Saddle and Pistols; and thus mounted and arm'd, he, together with three other Horse-men, and a Foot-man, came to Mr. *Cooper*'s House at ten of the Clock that Night; and being demanded who was at the Door, he the said *Smith* calling himself *Connor O Brian*, the Door was opened, whereupon the said *Smith* with both his Pistols in his Hands, and three other of his Accomplices rushed violently into the House, and with great Fury and Passion seiz'd Mr. *Cooper* as a Prisoner, by virtue of a common *Capias*, as he pretended; to which Arrest Mr. *Cooper* submitted: and after the said *Smith* had him in safe Custody, under the Guard of his three Accomplices, he search'd the House in great Confusion and Disorder, turning all Persons out, except Mr. *Cooper*'s Lady and two of his Children; and having made fast the Doors, and extinguish'd all the Lights, both of Fire and Candle, he return'd to the Chamber where Mr. *Cooper* was in quiet and submissive Custody; with a fired Turf in one of his Hands (for that such sort of Fuel keeps Fire like a Match) by blowing of which to a Blaze, he easily distinguish'd by that Light, Mr. *Cooper* his Prisoner, from the Persons that had hold of him; and accordingly, without any Provocation, put his Pistol to his Belly, and shot him through the Body, in the Presence of his Lady and of his Children, of which he died instantly; on whose Body the said *Smith* trampled, insulting and glorying in the villanous Fact, saying these words, I have killed the Villain: firing at the same time his other Pistol towards the Place where Mr. *Cooper*'s Children were.

Immediately after one Captain *Hedges*, and others of the Neighbourhood, having an Account of this bloody Murder, pursued the said *Smith*, apprehended him, and brought him before Mr. *Hawkins*, a Justice of the Peace for that County, who upon Examinations had before him upon Oath, and the Coroner's Inquest finding *Smith* guilty of wilful Murder, committed him to the County Goal at *Innis*, where he remain'd until the Chief-Justice of the King's-Bench in *Ireland* enlarg'd him upon Bail.

This is a Murder committed for no Gain; for lost Honour is not found in innocent Blood: neither was it a secret Murder, where the Murderers shew the greatness of their Shame by the privacy of the Fact; but here Guilt only contriv'd to keep it self in Countenance in aggravating the Crime by the Circumstances of it; for nothing less than the Authority of the principal ministerial Officer of the County is pretended to veil this most inhumane Offence; and the first Conservator of the Peace in the county not able to abstain one Day longer from that Revenge, the opportunity of his Employment i[illegible] him to execute, to the great Discouragement of that Obedience we owe to the Law, which self-preservation will compel us to resist, if such Ministers of Justice should not [illegible] such their Transgressions.